

## **Fees for MAPs – Frequently asked questions**

### **What are MAPs?**

MAPs are livestock market assurance programs which are designed to allow herds and flocks with a low risk for specified diseases to be traded with an accredited status.

The MAPs which are administered by DPI and subject to fees are:

- Australian Johne's Disease (JD) Market Assurance Programs for cattle, sheep, goats and alpaca
- NSW Ovine Brucellosis (OB) Accreditation Scheme for sheep
- NSW Caprine Arthritis-encephalitis (CAE) Accreditation Scheme for goats
- BreedSafe for artificial breeding centres.

### **What are the fees?**

The approved fees for all MAPs are as follows:

<b>Service</b>	<b>Fee (incl. GST)</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Initial application	\$ 176	Payable with new application to join a MAP. Not refundable if application is not granted because the herd or flock is not eligible to join.
Reaccreditation	\$ 176	Payable annually for JD. Payable annually or every 2 <sup>nd</sup> or 3 <sup>rd</sup> year for OB. Payable annually or every 2 <sup>nd</sup> year for CAE. Not refundable if application does not confirm the herd or flock is eligible to maintain or progress status.
Late reaccreditation	\$ 264	Payable if application for reaccreditation is received after the expiry date. Not refundable if application does not confirm the herd or flock is eligible to maintain or progress status.
Reinstatement	\$ 352	Payable if status is reinstated after being demoted due to complete and valid documentation and payment for reaccreditation or audit not being received in time.
Status certificate reprint	\$ 11	Payable on request for a replacement status certificate. Note that JD MAP certificates may be printed free of charge from the AHA website, and OB status may be confirmed from the DPI website, so a certificate might not be needed as proof of status.

### **How often do I have to pay the reaccreditation fee?**

Annual reaccreditation is required for the JD MAP by the national rules. It also reflects the technically and administratively more complex nature of these programs.

Producers in the OB accreditation scheme pay the reaccreditation fee for the first year after joining, then every second or third year if they have progressed to biennial or triennial reaccreditation.

Producers in the CAE accreditation scheme pay a reaccreditation fee annually or every second year if they have progressed to biennial reaccreditation.

### **What do the fees cover – what do I get for my money?**

The fees cover the actual cost of administration and include salaries, operational costs such as printing and postage, and overheads such as computers, telephone charges, office accommodation, database maintenance, and technical support and supervision. There is no profit margin built into the fees.

The main activities involved with administration of the MAPs include:

- Generating, printing and mailing renewal notices and final notices to producers and veterinarians.
- Assessing applications for accreditation, reaccreditation and extension; contacting the veterinarian if necessary to verify the information; demoting status if reaccreditation is late or does not meet the MAP rules; updating the State database, AHA database (JD) and DPI website (OB); and mailing confirmation and status certificates
- Generating and mailing notices for external audits (JD), assessing audit reports and applications for extension, contacting the auditor if necessary to verify the information and corrective action; updating the State database; processing subsidy claims; managing major and critical defects; and demoting status if the audit is late or a defect remains uncorrected.
- Advising veterinarians and auditors about the interpretation and application of MAP rules and processes on request, through an occasional newsletter, and through the DPI website ([www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/livestock/health/specific/veterinarians](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/livestock/health/specific/veterinarians)).
- Assessing and approving new veterinarians to participate in the MAP, and investigating alleged breaches of the MAP rules.

### **When will I receive my renewal notice?**

Your renewal notice will be posted 3 months prior to the renewal date for your accreditation.

### **What do I do if I lose my renewal notice?**

If you lose your renewal notice contact the MAP Administrator who will send out a replacement.

### **Why does it cost more if my veterinarian's or auditor's report is late? What if it's not my fault?**

Late veterinary and auditor reports are an ongoing problem which undermine the integrity of the MAPs and increase the administrative workload. The fee structure has been designed to provide a strong incentive for producers to ensure that they arrange with their veterinarian to review and test their herd or flock, and with their auditor to complete an external audit (if required), in time. If you foresee any possible delay, please ask your vet or auditor to apply for an extension *before* the expiry or due date.

You may wish to discuss reimbursement with your veterinarian or auditor if they are late in submitting the paperwork on your behalf.

The late fee may be waived if you can demonstrate that the report was sent in time but has subsequently become delayed or mislaid.

### **Is there a cost for applying for an extension?**

No. We would rather you applied for an extension if there is a legitimate reason why testing cannot be completed in time. Please note, however, that not all requests for extension are approved ('forgetting' or 'being away' are not valid reasons), in which case the late reaccreditation fee will apply.

### **Are there any rebates or subsidies?**

There are no rebates or subsidies available for the administration fees.

Some industry associations provide partial rebates for auditing and testing fees. Please check the AHA website ([www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/programs/johnes-disease/market-assurance-programs-maps/](http://www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/programs/johnes-disease/market-assurance-programs-maps/)) or contact your industry body for further information.

### **Are there any discounts or exemptions, for example for schools, pensioners or hobby farmers?**

No. The administrative cost is the same irrespective of the herd or flock size and whether it is run as a business, hobby or for educational purposes. Trying to verify applications for reduced fees would increase the administration costs. The MAP Administrator is not authorised to approve any reduction or waiver of fees so please don't ask!

## **I have a herd in the CattleMAP and a flock in both the SheepMAP and OB Accreditation Scheme. Can I get a 'bulk' discount as a reward for my commitment?**

We are sympathetic to this idea and explored this option. However, each status requires a separate veterinary report, entry into our database and status certificate, and may result in separate issues arising which need to be sorted out. It's similar to having more than one pet or car but each still needs to be registered at a similar cost. There are a number of ways of reducing your costs in this situation:

- Discuss with your approved veterinarian having all annual veterinary reviews and testing done at the same time. If necessary, your veterinarian can apply on your behalf for a permanent change in anniversary (expiry) date so they all coincide.
- Arrange with an external auditor to audit all MAPs at the same time.
- The same management systems and records, for example for introductions, can be used for all MAPs.

## **How do I make payment?**

Payment may be made by credit card or debit card by mail or phone, or by mailed cheque. On-line payment facilities are not currently available.

## **Do the fees include GST?**

Yes, goods and services tax (GST) is included in all fees, including the revised OB fees which were previously GST exempt. Eligible (GST-registered) businesses may be entitled to claim this component back through their business activity statement. Please contact your accountant or the Australian Taxation Office ([www.ato.gov.au](http://www.ato.gov.au)) for further information.

## **Will I receive a tax invoice and receipt?**

The renewal notice includes a tax invoice which, together with your bank statement, provides an acceptable record of payment for tax purposes. A separate tax receipt is not provided as this would increase the administration costs and hence the fees.

## **Can I defer payment or run an account?**

No, the fee must be paid in full before accreditation or reaccreditation is granted.

### **What happens if I don't pay the fee?**

If payment is missing or is for the incorrect amount, your application will not be progressed even if your veterinarian's report and all other paperwork is correctly completed and received. If the application is for reaccreditation, you will receive a final reminder notice with an invoice for the late reaccreditation fee, which is substantially higher.

If the late fee is not paid in full and in time, the status of your herd or flock will be reduced or revoked in accordance with the rules for the relevant MAP.

Your herd or flock may be subsequently reinstated to its previous accreditation level if all of the technical requirements are met and all outstanding veterinary or audit reports and other documentation is received, but an even higher reinstatement fee must be paid.

The higher late and reinstatement fees reflect the greater administrative work involved and are set to provide an incentive for being on time.

### **Will the fees rise in future?**

The fees will be reviewed each year to take into account any increases in running costs which generally are in line with inflation. Offsetting this may be any cost savings through changes to the program or systems.

### **Who makes the rules for the MAPs?**

The technical rules for the JD MAPs are reviewed and recommended by the MAP Reference Group whose members include peak national industry bodies (such as the Cattle Council of Australia, Dairy Australia, WoolProducers Australia, Sheepmeats Council and the Australian Alpaca Association), the Australia Veterinary Association and all States. Tests and other technical issues are approved by Animal Health Committee, which comprises the Chief Veterinary Officer of each State, Territory and the Commonwealth. The scheme is overseen nationally by Animal Health Australia (AHA) and administered in NSW by DPI.

The technical rules for the OB accreditation scheme in NSW were developed by DPI in consultation with state sheep industry bodies such as the NSW Farmers Association and breed societies. The CAE accreditation scheme in NSW was similarly developed by DPI in consultation with state goat industry bodies. These schemes are overseen and administered by DPI.

The administration fees are determined by DPI. Fees have always been part of the OB accreditation scheme. We have been discussing the need for fees for the JD MAPs, or some other way of offsetting the administration costs, with AHA and the MAP Reference Group since 2008.